



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

16 MARCH 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Hayward – Federal Authorities Charge Man with Making Hundreds of Crank 911 Calls

(U) US attorneys filed criminal charges against an East Bay man who they say made hundreds of threatening or harassing phone calls to police departments around the country. Sammy Sultan, of Hayward, faces five years in prison if convicted of making obscene or harassing calls and violations of interstate communications. The affidavit in support of his arrest tells the story of extreme crank calls made from February 2015 to August 2016. They included death threats and fake hostage calls. Many of the calls fit the same pattern: The caller would say he'd recently escaped a mental institution, had weapons in his possession, and that he wouldn't hurt anyone if the dispatcher listened to him, according to the affidavit. Calls were made to hundreds of police departments, in at least 18 states.

SOURCE: 16 March 2017, [The Mercury News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Charges Russian Spies, Hackers in Massive Yahoo Hack

(U) Washington – The United States yesterday charged two Russian intelligence agents and two criminal hackers with masterminding the 2014 theft of 500 million Yahoo accounts, marking the first time the US government has criminally charged Russian spies for cyber offenses. The 47-count Justice Department indictment includes charges of conspiracy, computer fraud and abuse, economic espionage, theft of trade secrets, wire fraud, access device fraud and aggravated identify theft. It paints a picture of the Russian security services working hand-in-hand with cyber criminals, who helped spies further their intelligence goals in exchange for using the same exploits to make money.

SOURCE: 15 March 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Michigan – Two Police Officers Shot, Suspect Taken into Custody

(U) Detroit – Two police officers were shot in Detroit yesterday while they were investigating drug activity on the city's West Side, where a suspect was later taken into custody after an hours-long manhunt. The two unidentified officers were in critical condition in hospital after they were wounded when they approached a suspect who pulled out a gun and opened fire before fleeing on foot. One officer was shot once in the ankle and twice in the upper torso, but was wearing protective body armor that likely saved his life. The other officer was shot in the neck. The armed suspect was found hiding in weeds in a field about two hours after the shooting, according to Detroit media. He was shot in the leg when he was initially stopped. Police identified the suspect as Raymond Durham, 60, through a piece of identification that he handed to the two officers before shooting them.

SOURCE: 16 March 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Bangladesh – Four Militants Linked to Café Attack Killed in Raid

(U) Chittagong – Three suspected members of an Islamist militant group blamed for a deadly cafe attack in Bangladesh last July were killed today when their suicide vests exploded during a police raid on their

hideout. Police said a woman was also among the four dead, who belonged to a faction of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh group, known as New JMB, which they have linked to attacks such as that on the cafe, which killed 22 people, mostly foreigners. New JMB has pledged allegiance to ISIS, which claimed responsibility for the attack on the cafe in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter, although the government has cast doubt on that claim.

SOURCE: 16 March 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) France – Headmaster and Children among at Least Eight Victims Injured in Attack at French School

(U) Grasse – At least eight people have been injured in a shooting at a school in Grasse, southern France. Police arrested one person on the scene at the Lycee Alexis de Tocqueville, where the headmaster was among those shot. The suspect is a 17-year-old student, who was armed with a rifle, a revolver, a pistol and grenades. A spokesperson for the local council in Grasse said the incident resulted from a personal dispute and was not believed to be terror-related. A police source told Reuters two students had been involved in the attack. "One of the two was arrested and the second fled," the source said. "There was panic and the students took refuge in the (neighboring) supermarket."

SOURCE: 16 March 2017, [Independent](#)

(U) France – Letter Bomb Explodes at IMF Office, Injuring One

(U) Paris – A letter exploded today at the French office of the International Monetary Fund, lightly injuring one person, amid heightened security around Europe after a string of deadly attacks. After the explosion, staff from the IMF office were evacuated and armed military officers and police guarded the area. It is unclear who sent the homemade explosive, which was like a "big firecracker" and sent by regular mail. He said the IMF office had received threatening phone calls in recent days but they were not necessarily linked to Thursday's incident. The secretary who opened the letter was injured by shrapnel in the face and hurt in the eardrum because of a "rather violent noise," the police chief said.

SOURCE: 16 March 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Greece – Group Claims It Mailed Parcel Bomb to German Finance Minister

(U) Athens – The militant Greek group Conspiracy of Fire Cells claimed responsibility for a parcel bomb mailed to German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble. The parcel was mailed to Schaeuble from a post office branch in Athens but was intercepted by the German finance ministry's mail department. The group has previously claimed responsibility for a wave of parcel bombs sent to foreign embassies in Athens in 2010. Greek police have been told by their German counterparts that the parcel contained explosives inside a book, connected with cables. It is not clear if the device could have exploded.

SOURCE: 16 March 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mexico – Official Reports 250 Skulls Found in Cartel Mass Burial Ground

(U) Veracruz City – Authorities in southern Mexico's Veracruz state are seeking international aid in identifying the remains of scores of people who were probably murdered and dumped in common graves on the outskirts of Veracruz City. On 14 March a prosecutor reported about 250 skulls had been found at the site. The bodies were probably dumped in the area over the course of years, according to the activist group, the Solecito Collective, which says the site may be the largest clandestine grave in Mexico. The site consists of dozens of common graves spread out in an area sprawling over several acres on the edge of town. Activists say the bodies were probably the remains of victims slain by drug cartels and other criminal elements, often working in conjunction with Mexican law enforcement authorities.

SOURCE: 14 March 2017, [The Los Angeles Times](#)

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